

REMARKS:

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 14, 2006. Claims 13 to 39 remain in the application, with Claims 13 to 29 having been withdrawn, and Claims 30 to 39 having been added herein. Claims 1 to 12 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 30 is the sole independent claim currently under consideration. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

No new matter is believed to have been introduced to the application by this amendment. The subject matter in new Claims 30 to 39 is fully supported by the disclosure and the original claims, including, for example, paragraphs [0036] and [0037] and Figure 2.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,654,797 ("Kamper"); and Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kamper. Without conceding the correctness of these rejections, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1 to 12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, the foregoing rejections are rendered moot.

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action, together with the applied reference, and respectfully submits that the new claims are patentably distinguishable over the applied reference for at least the following reasons.

The present invention generally concerns configuring computing devices. With reference to the particular claim language, new independent Claim 30 is directed to a method for configuring one or more computing devices connected by a network to a server. The method includes the step of attaching a removable storage device to the server. The removable storage device includes an image for configuring the one or more computing devices. The method

further includes the steps of executing code on the server to acquire the image from the attached removable storage device, distributing the acquired image over the network to the one or more computing devices, and loading the distributed image into a memory of the one or more computing devices to configure the one or more computing devices.

The applied reference is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claim 30, particularly with respect to at least the features of distributing an image acquired from a removable storage device attached to a server over a network to one or more computing devices and loading the distributed image into a memory of the one or more computing devices to configure the one or more computing devices.

Kamper is seen to be generally directed to configuring a server with a removable storage device. Specifically, Kamper discloses coupling a smart card to a server and reading configuration data from the smart card to configure the server. *See* Kamper, col. 5, l. 65 – col. 6, l. 5. While Kamper discloses that a removable storage device may be used to configure a plurality of servers (*see* Kamper, col. 5, ll. 20-25), it is necessary to move the same device from server to server (*see* Kamper, col. 5, ll. 15-19), connecting the same removable storage device directly to each of the plurality of servers (*see* Kamper, col. 7, ll. 35-39). This is unlike the present invention, in which a removable storage device is attached to a server, an image is acquired from the removable storage device and distributed over the network to one or more computing devices, and the distributed image is loaded into a memory of the one or more computing devices to configure the one or more computing devices. The removable storage device of the invention is not moved from the initial server to the one or more computing devices nor moved from any one of the computing devices to another one of the computing devices.


Accordingly, the Kamper is not seen to disclose, teach or suggest the combination of features of new independent Claim 30, which is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims currently under consideration in the application are dependent from independent Claim 30 discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be contacted at the address and telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,
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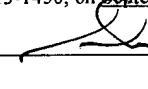
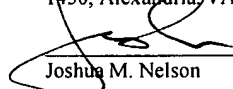
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